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To: Rhode Island Renewable Energy Fund Advisory Board  
From: Nancy Selman  
Date: October 13, 2004  
Re: Meeting Minutes for October 10, 2004

Next meeting dates: Second Tuesday of every month. For 2004: 11/9, 12/14

In attendance: See attached Attendance List.

1. Minutes and Update

a. Minutes –

- i. Smartpower – An additional clarification of the reporting on the Smartpower proposal in the September 2004 Minutes is that it was generally thought that the proposal was for too much money and that Smartpower should reduce scope of the proposal.
- ii. It was noted that a \$5000 grant was approved in September, 2004, for the PV project at Southside Community Land Trust, and that an additional grant was now being requested (see below).
- iii. Bill Lueker's name was omitted from the Attendance List for September, 2004 in error – he did attend the meeting.

b. Update –

- i. Plasma arc project – This project was classified as biodiesel in error – it should have been classified as biofuels. In addition, the net energy flow of the conceptual project is still unclear to the Board members.
- ii. Royal Mills Hydro - The Fund's consultants have received a copy of the feasibility study under confidentiality guidelines. The developer is seeking an exemption from FERC licensing and will be beginning negotiations with state agencies (DEM, Fish and Wildlife) on permitting on the assumption that permitting requirements will mirror the FERC license for the project which was surrendered by a previous owner in the 1980's, and that certain of the permitting requirements for the hydro will be necessary for the real estate development (such as wetlands requirements.)

2. CSG – The Board voted to approve grants for 4 projects as follows:

- a. URI will commit \$5,000 up front and would enter into a 10-year contract with a 10% discount for the solar electricity;
- b. West Warwick will commit \$5,000 up front based on their letter to the SEO, and would enter into a 10-year contract with a 10% discount for the solar electricity;
- c. West Greenwich will commit no up front money and would enter into a 12-year contract, with no discount on solar electricity – it would be purchased at the same price as the local electric provider adjusted annually;
- d. Westerly Hospital has not fully responded, but has indicated that they would not commit any up front money and would enter into a 12-year contract, with no discount on solar electricity, as 3 above.

3. IBEW – The Board voted to approve a grant of \$250,000, or \$5 per watt for 50 kW for this project.

4. Outreach Program Accountability – It is generally thought that there needs to be accountability for the educational programs being operated by non-profits which receive large grants for PV projects. Program guidelines will be developed for Board approval at the November, 2004 meeting. The requirements should include:

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- a. Standard criteria for outreach and education programs that the recipient must provide in order to qualify for higher level grant funding
  - b. Annual report to the Fund
    - i. Energy production
    - ii. Education and outreach activities
5. Solar on Schools –
- a. The Board decided that the sale of RECs from Solar on Schools projects could be used to fund the \$1000 co-funding requirement.
  - b. The above changes in requirements for accountability for outreach and education programs should also apply to schools. A short annual report should be made to the Fund, and based on the submission and acceptance of the report, maintenance of the system (e.g., inverter replacement) would be provided by the Fund.
  - c. Fund consultant noted that a future evolution of the program might be to provide learning kits to classrooms.
6. Southside Community Land Trust – The Board approved a request for an additional grant of \$5188 for this PV project. The funds will be used to pay for the PV project and install an internet-based monitoring system. The additional grant is required because this organization is a non-profit and is seen to have high outreach and education value. The issues noted above regarding outreach and education provided by host organizations who receive large grants for PV were discussed as applying to this grant.
7. Portsmouth Abbey wind monitoring – The Board approved a request for up to \$8100 for wind measurement at Portsmouth Abbey with the following conditions noted:
- a. Data must be provided in a form such that it can be posted on Fund’s website or ideally linked to it;
  - b. The grant for the hardware (pole, etc.) must go to Roger Williams University;
  - c. An additional allocation must be made for decommissioning of the wind monitoring equipment;
  - d. The data analysis must be reviewed by a recognized expert in the field.
  - e. The tower must be reused to support other projects in the State, especially those receiving Fund support.
8. Rentricity – Frank Zammataro, Al Spinnel, Keith Bossun (formerly of Aquarion in Massachusetts) presented their technology, business plan and a request for grant funding for a feasibility study of potential projects utilizing their application of standard hydroelectric technology in pressurized water mains:
- a. The application involves “in-flow power” – placement of standard hydro turbine-generator units in water mains to take advantage of pressurized flows. The turbine-generator sets are placed in parallel with existing pressure reduction valves in the mains, and replace the function of the pressure reducers while generating clean electricity.
  - b. Initial surveys show that there may be 2.25 MW in addressable sites in RI – at 75 sites, representing an estimated \$2 million in installation costs which will go to RI contractors
  - c. The Rentricity grant request is as follows:
    - i. Site surveys and top-line cost benefit analysis of project opportunities at 5 water utilities
    - ii. Board presentation in January; will consist of a specific proposal for a 1-3 site buildout
    - iii. Proposals for site development with utility partners
    - iv. Cost share requested \$25,000 grant from the Fund; \$25,000 from Rentricity
  - d. The Board approved the grant request as follows:

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- i. 25,000 grant from the Fund for a feasibility study (to be cost shared) to evaluate opportunities for Rentricity projects at 5 water utilities in Rhode Island.
  - ii. All 5 utilities must be covered. If Rentricity cannot gain the cooperation of all 5 water utilities, then a new proposal must be put before the Fund. In any case, the Providence Water Supply Board must be one of the participating utilities.
  - iii. A report will be made to the Board on the cost and reliability/availability/maintenance of the known projects in Boulder and New York.
  - iv. The first right of refusal to the RECs generated by Rentricity projects in RI must be granted to the State, at market terms. The RECs would be to satisfy any RPS or other obligation of the State for green power.
9. CRS – Mark Crowdis – made presentation and discussed changes to Green-e certification and verification charges and costs. CRS has moved to a fixed fee plus volumetric approach. CRS is looking for grants from other state funds and has approached CESA to gain access to the funds more efficiently.
10. RECA – Mark Crowdis also provided an update on the RECA aggregation wind power hedge contract negotiation. RECA is waiting for a final proposed terms with CEI; an agreement is anticipated in the next two weeks which will be subject to management approval for each of the aggregation members.

Decisions:

- 1) The Board voted to approve grants for 4 CSG projects: URI, West Warwick Water Treatment Facility, West Greenwich Library and Town Hall, and Westerly Hospital, with conditions noted above.
- 2) The Board voted to approve a grant of \$250,000 for a 50 kW PV system for IBEW.
- 3) The Board decided that the sale of RECs from Solar on Schools projects could be used to fund the \$1000 co-funding requirement.
- 4) The Board decided there should be requirements for accountability for outreach and education programs for PV incentive recipients, including schools. A short annual report should be made to the Fund, and based on the submission and acceptance of the report, maintenance of the system (e.g., inverter replacement) would be provided by the Fund.
- 5) The Board approved a request for an additional grant of \$5188 for the Southside Community Land Trust PV project.
- 6) The Board approved a request for up to \$8100 for wind measurement at Portsmouth Abbey with an additional reasonable allocation for decommissioning.
- 7) The Board approved a \$25,000 grant for Rentricity for a feasibility study to evaluate opportunities for Rentricity projects at 5 water utilities in Rhode Island, with conditions noted above.

Actions:

- 1) Write grant letters for the following:
  - a) 4 CSG projects: URI, West Warwick, West Greenwich and Westerly
  - b) IBEW
  - c) Southside Community Land Trust
  - d) Portsmouth Abbey
  - e) Rentricity
- 2) Develop guidelines for outreach for PV projects for non-profits and schools.

Attendance:

Bossung, Keith  
Crowdis, Mark  
Farley, John  
Grace, Bob  
Grace, Bob  
Hartley, Doug  
Jacobson, David  
Lueker, Bill  
Moskal, John  
Pavlides, Lefteris  
Rose, Vin  
Ryan, Eleanor  
Schiller, Barry  
Selman, Nancy  
Spinell, Al  
Teichert, Kurt  
Vild, Bruce  
Ward, Harold  
Zammataro, Frank